



2023 IMPACT REPORT

Led by Welcoming America and celebrated in communities around the globe, Welcoming Week is an annual week-long campaign that engages neighbors of all backgrounds in discussions and actions that advance equitable, inclusive, and welcoming communities. Launched in 2012, Welcoming Week has provided 11 years of opportunities for individuals and communities to proclaim welcoming values and foster mutual understanding between immigrants and non-immigrants, as well as deeper belonging for all.

Each year of progress toward a more welcoming and inclusive global society builds upon the last, and 2023 was no different. In 2012, Welcoming Week engaged 20 communities in the United States. This year, Welcoming Week achieved its greatest participation to date, engaging seven countries and 41 U.S. states that hosted events highlighting the cultural, social, and economic contributions of immigrants around the globe. Events took many forms: from art exhibitions to naturalization ceremonies, community discussions, and local festivals.

We'd like to thank Walmart and all of our individual, corporate, and foundation partners that make Welcoming Week possible.

Welcoming Week wouldn't be possible without the continued support of our 23 partners among the nonprofit, private, and university sectors. Thank you for engaging your own networks in welcoming work throughout Welcoming Week.



600+
Events hosted globally



546M
People reached with welcoming values through media



42
Communities issued welcoming proclamations



7
Countries hosted events



41
U.S. states hosted events

Bend is built from the contributions of everyone. We value how everyone here is bringing new ideas, serving in civic roles, working in critical industries, seeking to collaborate on our challenges, and contributing to diversity in our community.”

MAYOR MELANIE KEBLER,
CITY OF BEND

BEND, OR

In Bend, Oregon, local leaders hosted five events combating discrimination and promoting unity, including restorative discussions about belonging, a multicultural art exhibition, a celebration of Latino heritage, and an engaging game of Lotería with local law enforcement.



Cultural performance in Winona, MN. Credit: Briana Broberg

ATLANTA, GA

In Atlanta, Georgia, 50 candidates from 30 countries took the naturalization oath and received U.S. citizenship certificates during Welcoming Week. During the ceremony, Welcoming Atlanta and its partners provided resources like voter registration and passport information to new U.S. citizens.



Citizenship ceremony in Atlanta City Hall. Credit: Lindsay Mensch

WINONA, MN

Project FINE, a nonprofit organization in Winona, Minnesota, hosted or co-hosted 15 Welcoming Week events in 2023. Project FINE also supported Winona and its neighboring towns of Goodview and St. Charles in issuing official Welcoming Week proclamations this year.

Welcoming Week 2023 at Project FINE was amazing. We created new partnerships, highlighted local diverse businesses, and continued the conversation about creating a place where everyone belongs.”

KATIE VAN EIJL, PROGRAM MANAGER, PROJECT FINE

MEXICO

Through a partnership with Sin Fronteras, Mexico participated in Welcoming Week for the first time in 2023! Events held in three cities—Mexico City, Querétaro, and Tijuana—aimed to tell the story of welcoming communities and build broader support for migrants in Mexico.



Welcoming Week event in Mexico City. Credit: Sin Fronteras

Welcoming Week 2023 is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the people, places, and values that ensure everyone feels welcome and belongs in the local community, no matter where they come from.”

KEN DACHI, LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL MULTICULTURAL ADVISOR, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA

Welcoming Australia has been a long-time partner in the Welcoming International Alliance and Welcoming Week. This year, through the Rural Welcoming Community Exchange, welcoming practitioners from rural communities in Australia and the U.S. were asked to host at least one Welcoming Week event in their community. This contributed to the 37 Welcoming Week events in Australia, including a community picnic and a traditional Fijian banquet.



PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Certified Welcoming city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has celebrated Welcoming Week for the past eight years. This year, Little Amal's two-day visit made the city's welcoming activities extra special. In Philadelphia alone, more than 145 people joined in on the Welcoming Week celebration.



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